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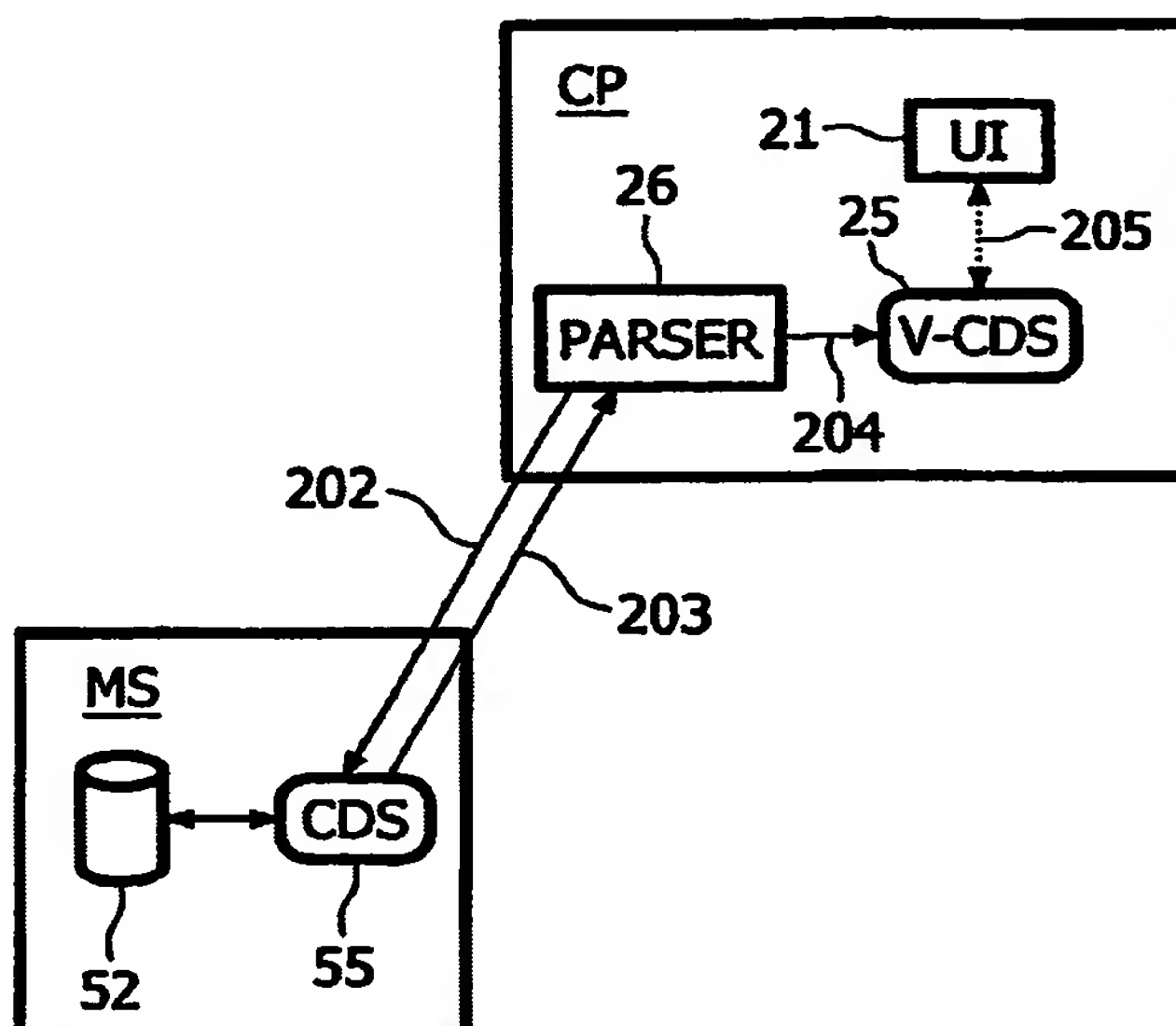
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(54) Title: **VIRTUAL CONTENT DIRECTORY SERVICE**



(57) Abstract: A serving device (MS) stores media content information (meta-data) in a directory, such as the Content Directory Service (CDS, 55) of UPnP. Querying devices, such as UPnP Control Point devices (CP), can query the CDS (55) to obtain information. An alternative representation of the CDS (V-CDS) is maintained by an entity of the system. The alternative, or 'virtual', CDS (V-CDS) stores selected information in a manner which can be more efficiently queried by querying devices. Preferably, the structure of the reorganised information is optimised for the specific browsing, searching and retrieval tasks of the user interface (UI) of a particular querying device. The virtual CDS (VCDS) can aggregate information from a number of different serving devices (MS-a, MS-b, Fig. 5) and can provide a service either to a single querying device or to a group of querying devices.